

We claim:

1. 1. A method for providing a translated output signal derived
5 from a speech input signal, the method comprising:

receiving a speech input signal in a first language;

10 converting the speech input signal into a digital format comprising a
voice model component representing a speech pattern of the speech input signal
and a content component representing a content of the speech input signal;

15 translating the content component from the first language into a second
language to provide a translated content component; and

generating an audible output signal comprising the translated content in an
approximation of the speech pattern of the speech input signal.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first language is identified from
20 the content component.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first language is predetermined.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the voice model component
25 comprises a point cloud.

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5. The method of claim 4, wherein the point cloud comprises an abbreviated version of the speech input signal.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the content component comprises at 5 least one word.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the operation of translating the content component utilizes the voice model component.
- 10 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the voice model component utilized in the operation of translating the content component comprises a dialect.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the audible output signal is generated substantially simultaneously with the receipt of the speech input signal 15 to allow for substantially real-time communication.
10. A device that provides for translation of speech, the device comprising:
 - 20 a speech input device;
 - a converter for converting a speech input signal received by the speech input device into a digital format comprising a voice model component representing a speech pattern of the speech input signal and a content component 25 representing a content of the speech input signal;
 - a language converter for translating the content component from a first language to a second language to provide a translated content component; and

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a speech output device for generating an audible output signal comprising the translated content component in an approximation of the speech pattern of the speech input signal.

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